

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02044 081211Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

EUR-25 INSE-00 DRC-01 /139 W
----- 000373

R 081134Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2095

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2044

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CGEN, IS

SUBJ: EMIGRATION: FACT AND SPECULATION

SUMMARY: RUMORS, PRESS REPORTS, AND POLLS ON ISRAELI
EMIGRATION FOLLOWING OCTOBER WAR HAVE GENERATED OFFICIAL CONCERN
OVER THEIR ADVERSE IMPACT ON PUBLIC MORALE AS WELL AS ON EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. WHILE AVAILABLE STATISTICAL
EVIDENCE SHOWS NO UPWARD TREND IN EMIGRATION TO DATE, ECONOMIC
AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS MIGHT INDUCE MORE ISRAELIS TO SEEK
BETTER LIFE ABROAD IN NEXT YEARS. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT ANY
SHARP UPSURGE IN EMIGRATION WILL DEVELOPE IN MONTHS AHEAD.
END SUMMARY.

1. ALLEGED SHARP INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ISRAELIS LEAVING ISRAEL
SINCE END OF OCTOBER WAR OR PLANNING TO EMIGRATE HAS BEEN
ACTIVE TOPIC OF LOCAL GOSSIP MILL AND ISRAELI PRESS OVER PAST
THREE MONTHS. DURING THAT PERIOD EMB PRESS ATTACHE HAS
RECEIVED SOME TWENTY CALLS FROM ISRAELI AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS
CONCERNING EMIGRATION TO UNITED STATES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02044 081211Z

2. IN EFFORT TO QUANTIFY EXTENT OF ISRAELIS CONSIDERING EMIGRATION, HAARETZ NEWSPAPER COMMISSIONED SURVEY POLL BY PORI. RESULTS OF POLL, PUBLISHED MARCH 26 IN HAARETZ AND WIDELY QUOTED BY OTHER PAPERS IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD, SHOWED THAT SOME ELVEN PERCENT OF ALL ISRAELIS-- AND SOME 20 PERCENT OF ISRAELIS 20-29 AGE GROUP-- ARE THINKING MORE OR LESS SERIOUSLY ABOUT EMIGRATING.

3. PUBLICATION OF SURVEY GENERATED NEW WAVE OF INQUIRIES BY PRESS ABOUT ACTUAL SITUATION. SENIOR OFFICIALS OF JEWISH AGENCY, INCLUDING HEAD OF IMMIGRATION DEPT UZI NARKISS ON RETURN FROM US VISIT, COMPLAINED THAT PUBLICATION OF SURVEY AND OTHER REPORTS ABROAD WERE DAMAGING TO EFFORTS TO INCREASE IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. ISRAELI OFFICIALS GENERALLY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ADVERSE IMAGE OF ISRAEL CREATED BY IMMIGRATION REPORTS.

4. TO SQUELCH RUMORS AND PRESS SPECULATION, GOI RELEASED INTERIOR MINISTER'S MARCH 31 CABINET STATEMENT THAT PRESS REPORTS ABOUT SCOPE OF EMIGRATION WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION. NUMBER OF NEW PASSPORTS ISSUED BY HIS OFFICE SHOWED STEADY NATURAL INCREASE FROM YEAR TO YEAR, BUT NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN VOLUME SINCE OCTOBER WAR. HE ALSO QUOTED INFO FROM US CONSUL GENERAL THAT NUMBER OF ISRAELI APPLICANTS FOR EMIGRANT VISAS IN FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1974 HAS SLIGHTLY DECREASED IN COMPARISON WITH YEAR AGO. STATISTICS ON NUMBER OF ISRAELIS AND FOREIGN NATIONALS DEPARTING ISRAEL ALSO SHOWED NO BASIS FOR REPORTS ON INCREASED EMIGRATION. APPLICATIONS BY RESERVISTS TO LEAVE COUNTRY REPORTEDLY ARE BELOW LAST YEAR'S FIGURES, ACCORDING TO DATA FROM IDF MANPOWER BRANCH, WHICH MUST APPROVE DEPARTURE OF RESERVISTS.

5. WHILE NUMBER OF NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS (NIV) ISSUED BY EMBASSY TO ISRAELIS IN 1973 INCREASED 17 PERCENT OVER PREVIOUS YEAR, NUMBER OF NIV'S ISSUED IN FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1974 INCREASED ONLY 14 PERCENT OVER SAME PERIOD 1973. EMB ISSUED 190 EMIGRANT VISAS JAN-MARCH 1974, COMPARED TO 210 JAN-MARCH 1973. HOWEVER, EMB IS RECEIVING 25-30 INQUIRIES DAILY OVER PAST MONTH ABOUT EMIGRATION PROCEDURES COMPARED TO AROUND FIVE PER DAY IN SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. INQUIRIES ARE MADE BY YOUNG COUPLES, DISCHARGE SOLDIERS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 02044 081211Z

RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS, AND AMERICAN TOURISTS INQUIRING ON BEHALF OF RELATIVES SETTLED IN ISRAEL.

6. GOI AND EMB STATISTICAL DATA CERTAINLY DISPROVE ALLEGATIONS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT EXODUS OF ISRAELIS IN WAKE OF OCTOBER WAR. HOWEVER, DATA ON DEPARTURES OR ISSUANCE OF NON-EMIGRANT VISAS CANNOT REVEAL EXTENT TO WHICH NON-EMIGRANTS WILL CONVERT STATUS ONCE ABROAD. SURVEY POLLS ALSO ARE NOT

RELIABLE INDICATORS OF WHETHER RESPONDENTS ARE EXPRESSING SERIOUS INTENTIONS, PASSING WHIMS, OR SIMPLY SMANIFESTING THEIR PROTEST OVER CURRENT CONDITIONS.

7. HOWEVER, SPATE OF SURVEYS, PRESS REPORTS AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON EMIGRATION HAVE GIVEN RISE TO SERIOUS CONCERN BY ISRAELI PUBLIC AND OFFICIALDOM, WITH REFLECTIONS BACK TO PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SIX-DAY WAR WHEN LARGE NUMBERS OF ISRAELIS LEFT ISRAEL FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, AND THE STANDING JOKE THEN CONCERNED SIGN AT AIRPORT: "LAST ONE OUT, PUT OUT THE LIGHTS." MORE IMPORTANT, SPECULATION ON EMIGRATION CAN BE CONTAGIOUS AND CORROSIVE TO PUBLIC MORALE, PARTICULARLY IN COUNTRY WHERE IDEAL IS IN-GATHERING OF JEWS, AND CONNOTATION OF HEBREW WORD FOR EMIGRANT IS HIGHLY DEROGATORY.

8. DETERIORATION IN ECONOMIC SITUATION MIGHT IN NEXT YEAR OR TWO INDUCE ISRAELIS TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD. HIGH COST OF HOUSING, INFLATION GENERALLY, AND LACK OF CHALLENGING JOBS FOR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ARE AMONG FACTORS THAT COULD INFLUENCE DECISIONS BY YOUNG ISRAELIS TO LEAVE ISRAEL. CONCERN OVER MILITARY SECURITY AND NEED FOR SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS OF ISRAELIS TO ENGAGE IN MILITARY COMBAT ALSO COULD CONTRIBUTE TO DESIRE TO EMIGRATE. FINALLY, DISCONTENT OVER POLITICAL SITUATION GENERALLY COULD LEAD PEOPLE TO CONSIDER STARTING NEW LIFE ABROAD.

9. ON BALANCE, EMB BELIEVES THAT POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED EMIGRATION IS NOT AS SERIOUS A PROBLEM AS SUGGESTED BY FIRST FLURRY OF PRESS REPORTS, DESPITE ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT. IN PART, RUMORS AND SURVEYS REFLECT SHOCK EFFECT OF YOM KIPPUR WAR. WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE DISCONTENT IN ISRAEL OVER ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION. BUT WE BELIEVE VAST MAJORITY OF ISRZELIS WILL NOT SEEK PERSONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEL AV 02044 081211Z

SOLUTION BY ESCAPE, AND EMIGRATION IS UNLIKELY TO SHOW SIGNIFICANT UPWARD SURGE OVER LEVELS OF PAST FEW YEARS.
KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, EMIGRANTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POPULATION MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV02044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740079-0654
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740457/aaaacacc.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <15 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMIGRATION: FACT AND SPECULATION SUMMARY: RUMORS, PRESS REPORTS, AND POLLS ON ISRAELI
TAGS: PINT, CGEN, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005